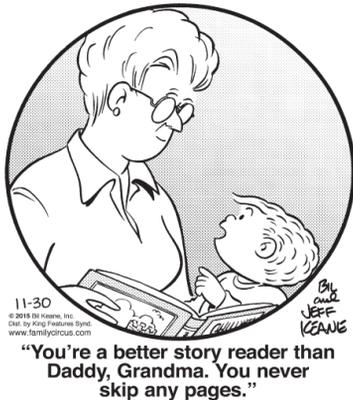
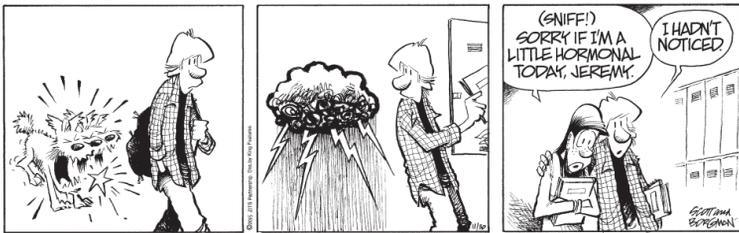


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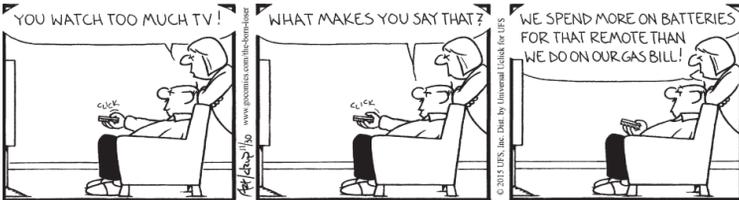
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# Daughter Dreads Holiday Visit To Mom In Diminished Health

**DEAR ABBY:** I gave birth to a baby girl two months ago. I have a wonderful husband and my in-laws are incredible. We live far away from both sides of the family.

My mom is a former cocaine and prescription pain meds addict. Her addiction diminished her mental capacities, and it's difficult to relate to her because the only things she can talk about are her health issues and all the medications she's currently taking.

Mom recently came to visit us. I hadn't seen her in two years, and when she did, I realized we have nothing in common. She and my dad are still happily married, and Dad has yet to meet my child. I'm supposed to visit them for the holidays, but I'd rather spend the time with my in-laws. Any suggestions? — NOTHING IN COMMON IN HAWAII

**DEAR NOTHING IN COMMON:** Yes. Sometimes it's important to do things we would rather not because they are the right thing to do. Your father is trying to make the best of a difficult situation, and your mother is working to overcome a serious illness — which addiction is.

Make the scheduled visit you committed to, and give your dad the chance to meet his grandchild. If, after that, you decide to permanently distance yourself from your parents, it will be your choice, but you may change your mind.

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend of five years, "Jack," is funny, unique and generally very sweet. I'm currently on disability and working hard to get myself healthy enough to start working again. The problem is, Jack thinks I do nothing but sit on my butt all day.

When I worked, we used to trade massages to make each other feel relaxed because our jobs were physically demanding. Now, because I'm not working, he says it's my

"job" to help him relax. I give him a massage every night, but it's never reciprocated. When I ask him for one, he puts no effort into it and acts like it's a chore.

I no longer feel loved or special. I feel like a live-in masseuse, but I'm worried that if I stop, there will be no physical contact at all between us. What would be the best way to let him know I'm tired of it? — RUBBED THE WRONG WAY IN MINNESOTA

**DEAR RUBBED THE WRONG WAY:** Jack doesn't sound all that "sweet" to me. Because you feel the way you do, tell him how his change of behavior is affecting you. Touch is important because it helps partners to stay connected. Could it be that Jack's unwillingness to give you massages is "punishment" because you're not contributing financially as you did while you were working?

Tell him you miss the closeness you once shared, and that if the shoe were on the other foot, you wouldn't treat him this way. Depending on what he has to say, suggest that for the sake of your relationship, a compromise may be in order because your partnership is not equal now.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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**DEAR ABBY**  
Jeanne Phillips

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## JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

mendous effort into whatever you are doing today. It will be hard to pull back. Someone could find you to be unusually pushy! Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Leo.

★★★★ You might want to pull back and share less at the moment. Being someone else's confidant works, but past that you need to stay out of the fray. A partner could inspire you in his or her unique way. Schedule time to share what you feel and see. Tonight: Make it personal.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, NOV. 30, 2015:

This year you have the energy and discipline to achieve a long-term goal. This desire could involve travel or simply a new experience. You might feel slightly disappointed after you achieve your goal, as you might not be sure what to do next. If you are single, you most likely will encounter someone from a different culture who could knock your socks off. This bond opens you up to many new ideas. If you are attached, the two of you will want to pursue a certain trip that you have spoken about often. You both will be excited to finally make this dream a reality. LEO makes you laugh.

★★★ You'll present yourself in a much more spirited way than what others are used to. If someone becomes reactive, just go with the flow. This person might need some time to adjust. Your fatigue will be apparent when handling a redundant conversation. Tonight: Share news.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★ You have a lovely way of taking the lead and invigorating even the laziest people. You could be more irritated by someone than you realize, and your anger suddenly might surface. Try to express your disdain in the most appropriate way possible. Tonight: In the limelight.

### ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★★ You might be ready to take on any challenge that heads your way. Being as open as possible will reveal many opportunities. A friend could be pushing what he or she thinks is a great idea — even though it was originally your idea! Be diplomatic. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★ You will accomplish more if you refrain from being so defensive. Listen to what a friend or associate has to share. You could find this person's behavior offensive, but ask yourself how or if it really affects you before making any comments. Tonight: Loosen up.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ You could be at the point of no return. Understand your limits. You might need to have a significant talk, so remain open. If you feel you need to do more physically, do just that. Get into an exercise program or start walking the dog more often. Tonight: Happiest at home.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ One-on-one relating will prove to be satisfactory and effective. You will accomplish a lot if you stay open to a partner's ideas. A higher-up might seem irate, but his or her reasoning could be questionable. Stay on top of what needs to be done. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ How you say it makes all the difference. You could be creative in how you deliver your thoughts. Make sure the receiver is capable of receiving your intended message. The words are more important than the style of communication. Tonight: Challenge a pal to a game of Scrabble.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Others are so animated right now that it might be difficult to get a word in. You could be in a situation where you feel as if you have a better idea. Finding support will be difficult at the moment. Give it time. Tonight: Have fun not being in control for the time being.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might be ready for some dynamic changes, but know the cost of heading in that direction. Check to see if your budget is as flexible as you think it is. A family member who often gives you flak could create some uproar. Tonight: Indulge in some celebration.

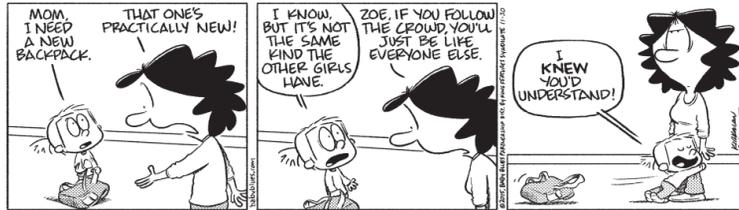
### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Put all your effort into a project that involves a loved one. The results could be rather exciting. You might view an associate as being stern and unimaginative. This person simply can't seem to see your vision. Don't count on his or her support. Tonight: Take a walk.

★★★★ Some of you will be on the verge of completing a major creative endeavor. You'll put tre-

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

